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Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Quadrennial reports, 1994–1997, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment

(Special consultative status granted 1989)

Aim and purposes

The aim of the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) is the equalization of educational opportunity for people with visual impairment throughout the world, including those with low vision and with additional disability. The foundation aims to achieve this goal through:

(a) Advocacy promoting the education of people with visual impairment through the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as other international, regional and national bodies;

(b) Encouraging the inclusion of professionals, parents and consumers in the development of national educational plans;

(c) Cooperation with national and international NGOs in the field of visual impairment;

(d) Providing professional and technical information through its network of individuals and organizations;

(e) Facilitating the exchange of professional knowledge and information through publications, seminars, workshops and conferences, including a quinquennial world conference.

ICEVI's regional chairpersons and regional committees provide focal points in eight separate world regions. ICEVI's emphasis is increasingly on regional activity.

ICEVI is at present registered as a foundation, and its constitution is under review. ICEVI will aim as one of its priorities to renew and redefine its relationship with individuals in the field.

ICEVI is funded through grants from international and national non-governmental organizations.

ICEVI is affiliated to the World Blind Union (WBU), which has recognized consultative status with the United Nations.

Participation in the work of the Council and associated bodies

Building on the success of its WHO consultation seminar held at Bangkok in July 1992, ICEVI has during the period under report completed a low vision kit as a joint venture between the WHO programme for the prevention of blindness and the University of Melbourne Department of Ophthalmology. This has been extensively field tested and evaluated through ICEVI's regions.

ICEVI participated in preparatory committee meetings, and with WBU provided input for the World Summit for Social Development. The three main goals of the Copenhagen Declaration, namely the eradication of absolute poverty, the enhancement of social integration, and the promotion of full and productive employment are all of special relevance to people with visual impairment.

ICEVI's President presented a paper on the role of voluntary organizations to the UNESCO Salamanca meeting. ICEVI supports strongly the resultant Salamanca statement.

ICEVI continues to seek support from its associated non-governmental organizations for the jointly funded ICEVI and UNESCO project for specialist teacher training and the expansion of educational programmes for children with visual impairment in the French-speaking countries of West Africa.

ICEVI has played an active role in the ESCAP Inter-Agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee on Disability. Through active participation, ICEVI has assisted in the development of the agenda for action, in conjunction with the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.

Other activities

ICEVI has worked with WBU in a world forum on literacy of blind and visually impaired people, and has produced a joint educational policy statement, thus harnessing the energy and resources of the two organizations towards agreed goals.

Throughout the four-year period under consideration, ICEVI regions have developed a wide range of activity. The following are examples of worldwide activity:

(a) Europe: a regular newsletter; a regional conference in 1995, with 340 participants from 34 countries; and a seminar on specialized teacher training in 1997, with 42 participants from 22 European countries;

(b) Asia: a regular newsletter; research on software for braille printing and the development of a voice synthesizer; field testing of low vision assessment kit; regional committee meetings; regional conference at Ahmedabad, India;

(c) Pacific: literacy project and eye care programmes in the Pacific islands.

2. Population Council

(Special consultative status granted 1972)

The Population Council, a non-profit non-governmental research organization established in 1952, seeks to improve the well-being and reproductive health of current and future generations around the world, and to help achieve a humane, equitable, and sustainable balance between people and resources. The Council analyses population issues and trends; conducts research in reproductive sciences; develops new contraceptives; works with public and private agencies to improve the quality and outreach of family planning and reproductive health services; helps Governments to design and implement effective population policies; communicates the results of research in the population field to diverse audiences; and helps to strengthen professional resources in developing countries through collaborative research and programmes, technical exchange, awards and fellowships. The Population Council is governed by a multinational board of trustees, and its New York headquarters supports a global network of regional and country offices.

The Population Council maintains an active role as an organization with consultative status to the Council not only through participation in conferences and lectures sponsored by the functional commissions and expert bodies of the Council but also through cooperation with the specialized agencies. From 1992–1995, representatives of the Population Council have participated in numerous United Nations-related activities.

The President participated in the following seminars/sessions/meetings:

(a) "Giving voice to children: strengthening advocacy for child health and well-being", January 1993, Mount Kisco, New York, co-sponsored by UNICEF;

(b) "The United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions: new challenges for the twenty-first century", Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, September 1993;

(c) Panel discussions on "Families in focus: myths and facts", NGO Forum of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, September 1995;

(d) Chaired International Vaccine Institute site selection committee on behalf of UNDP, April–May 1994;

(e) United Nations University search committee, Tokyo, August 1994;

(f) UNICEF sanitation meeting, Harare, October 1994;

(g) UNFPA NGO advisory committee, New York, April 1995;

(h) Day of the African Child, United Nations Headquarters, June 1995;

(i) Special advisory group to the Executive Director of UNFPA, New York, July 1995;

(j) UNICEF management excellence programme, New York, November 1995;

(k) Pocantico Conference, February 1995;

(l) Special advisory group to the Executive Director of UNICEF, Bellagio, Italy, March 1995.

The President gave the following speeches:

(a) Keynote address to the twelfth annual NGO/United Nations population consultation, "Toward Cairo and beyond: organizing for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development", New York, April 1993;

(b) "Explosions, eclipses and escapes: charting a course on global population issues", 1993 Paul Hoffman lecture, UNDP, New York, June 1993;

(c) "The population factor and global economic development", world development issues hearings, United Nations, June 1994;

(d) Keynote address entitled "Safeguarding our future: looking back, moving forward, creating the future we want". Plenary session of International Conference on Population and Development at Cairo, September, 1994.

The Population Council representative(s) participated in the following seminars/meetings:

(a) Inter-agency group for safe motherhood (including UNFPA, UNICEF, IPPF, WHO and World Bank), 1992;

(b) Expert group meeting on population growth and demographic structure, Paris, 1992;

(c) UNICEF/WHO breastfeeding indicators meeting, New York, 1992;

(d) WHO barrier method meeting, Geneva, 1993;

(e) UNFPA working group meetings on contraceptive requirements in developing countries, 1993;

(f) WHO working group on African social research programme, Geneva, 1993;

(g) Preparatory Committee for NGO paraliel ICPD activities at Cairo, New York, 1993;

(h) WHO symposium on contraceptive research and development for the year 2000 and beyond, Mexico City, 1993;

(i) Twelfth annual NGO/United Nations population consultation, New York City, 1993;

(j) WHO task force on social science research on reproductive health, Geneva, 1994;

(k) WHO meeting on improving contraceptive access, Geneva, 1994;

(l) WHO scientific group meeting on medical methods for inducing abortion, Geneva, April 1994;

(m) Third session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee, April 1994;

(n) Meeting on safe motherhood, June 1994;

(o) Consultative group meeting on contraceptive requirements and logistics management needs in developing countries in the 1990s, Geneva and Rosslyn, Virginia, 1994;

(p) UNICEF meeting, "The role of men and fathers", June 1994;

(q) International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 1994;

(r) Safe motherhood workshop, UNICEF, New Delhi, March 1995;

(s) UNFPA expert group meeting on population and development, April 1995;

(t) WHO consultative meeting on reproductive health, New Delhi, May 1995;

(u) Meeting on safe motherhood, "Essential obstetric care", June 1995;

(v) Intercountry consultation on the promotion of health of adolescent girls, September 1995;

(w) Preparatory meetings for United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), July and September 1995;

(x) WHO regional workshop on reproductive health, New Delhi, October 1995;

(y) Tenth meeting of working group on contraceptive requirements and logistics management needs, October 1995;

(z) WHO Subcommittee for Asia and the Pacific, Pune, India, October 1995;

(aa) UNFPA inter-agency collaboration working group, New Delhi, 1995;

(bb) Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995.

Population Council representative(s) acted as technical adviser or consultant in the following areas:

(a) Consultant to UNFPA on copper T IUD specifications, New Delhi, 1992;

(b) WHO global programme on AIDS consultation on microbicides development, November 1993;

(c) WHO workshop on reproductive health research in India, New Delhi, September 1994;

(d) WHO consultation on women's and men's perspectives on fertility regulation methods and services, Geneva, 1995;

(e) UNICEF/Myanmar consultation on developing plan to evaluate national HIV/AIDS prevention project;

(f) UNFPA expert consultation on a global framework for assessment and monitoring of reproductive health, New York City, April 1995.

Population Council representative(s) collaborated with United Nations programmes (memberships as follows, etc.):

(a) Member, Scientific and Technical Advisory Group of the WHO's safe motherhood programme;

(b) Member, WHO/GPA international working group on vaginal microbicides;

(c) Member, inter-organization subcommittee on population and development in Asia and the Pacific, regional inter-agency committee for Asia and the Pacific, and ESCAP;

(d) Member, WHO steering committee on social and behavioral research;

(e) Member, United Nations expert group on population and environment.

Population Council representative(s) presented the following papers:

(a) "Future population growth and global warming", at a United Nations expert group meeting on population, environment and development, 1992;

(b) "The role of public sector agencies in human reproduction research", at an inter-agency consultation on meeting the challenges of the 1990s in human reproduction research, sponsored by WHO in Mexico City, 1993;

(c) "Access to family planning and maternal and child health services in developing countries", and "Trends in contraceptive prevalence in national sample surveys", at a seminar on population and social development goals, sponsored by UNFPA;

(d) "Quality of reproductive care", conference on integrating family planning and reproductive health care, UNFPA/WHO, Geneva, December 1994;

(e) "New contraceptive technology for men at the United States-Canada consultation of the Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life, sponsored by UNESCO and UNFPA, Washington, 1994;

(f) "Essential obstetric care and the safe motherhood initiative in Mexico", at the technical inter-agency group of safe motherhood, UNICEF, New York, 31 May–2 June 1995;

(g) "Population growth scenarios and policy options", at a United Nations University conference on the sustainable future of the global system, Tokyo, October 1995;

(h) Draft discussion paper on the need for and feasibility of a global contraceptive commodity fund, working group meeting on contraceptive requirements and logistics management needs, February 1995.

Publications

The following are recent publications of the Population Council:

(a) "Report of the UNFPA programme review and strategy mission to Laos", Laos, 1992;

(b) "Population growth and our caring capacity", Population Council issues paper;

(c) "Reconsidering the rationale, scope and quality of family planning programs";

(d) "Contraceptive use and commodity costs in developing countries, 1994–2005", UNFPA technical report;

(e) "Mediating factors linking population and the environment" in *Population, Environment and Development* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.XIII.7);

(f) "Population and institutional change", in *International Social Science Journal*, No. 141.

Representation on WHO steering committees

The Population Council has been represented on the following committees:

(a) Task Force on Long-Acting Systemic Agents for Fertility Regulation, Geneva, from 1992–1995;

(b) Task Force for Epidemiological Research on Reproductive Health, Geneva, from 1992–1993;

(c) Task Force on Vaccines for Fertility Regulation, Geneva, from 1992–1995;

(d) Task Force on Methods for the Regulation of Male Fertility, Long Beach, California, 1995;

(e) Task Force for Social Science Research on Reproductive Health, January–February 1995.

3. Rehabilitation International

(Special consultative status granted 1978)

Introductory statement

The purpose of Rehabilitation International (RI) shall be to promote the prevention of disability, the rehabilitation of disabled people and the equalization of opportunities within society on behalf of disabled people and their families throughout the world. Examples follow to illustrate how RI carries out its global work. RI's global network serves as a medium for deliberation, exchange of ideas, knowledge, skills and experiences, and compilation and dissemination of information. We publish the *International Rehabilitation Review* and an internal newsletter *Secretariat Headlines*.

We also organize international and regional congresses, conferences, seminars and courses of instruction; congresses occur every four years and regional conferences once or twice a year. We work directly to assist member organizations in establishing and carrying forward, in cooperation with governmental agencies or authorities, private enterprises and organizations of disabled people, programmes for disability prevention, rehabilitation and the equalization of opportunities on behalf of people with disabilities. A strong feature of our work is to cooperate with other international organizations, both governmental and voluntary, including organizations of people with disabilities, in order to consolidate strength for the purpose of increasing the status of opportunities on behalf of people with disabilities.

RI is a federation of members, divided into six geographical regions of the world, composed of national-level NGOs, government ministries and organizations of people with disabilities. The membership is unique to each country. The years 1994–1997 have seen an increase of 57 new organizations divided among the following regions: Africa (nine),

Arab (nine), Asia and the Pacific (five), Europe (nine), Latin America (four), North America (21). RI averages a membership of 90 countries.

Participation in the work of the Council, its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences, other United Nations meetings

Commission for Social Development and World Summit for Social Development

- Participated in the three Preparatory Committee meetings in January, August and October 1994 in New York and March 1995 at Copenhagen in advance of the Summit; statements submitted in February and August. RI 1994 activity was reported out in the *Review* article "RI at the United Nations: collaborative partnerships".
- Convened other disability NGOs in consultative status with the Council to form a disability caucus in order to deliver joint statements at the PREPCOMS, January and August 1994, as well as in March 1995. Reported in the *Review*.
- Sponsored a call to action within the RI global membership, resulting in 25 member countries' advocacy to include disability within the text of the Programme of Action (February 1994 though February 1995). Reported in the *Review*.
- Sent a delegation composed of RI Executive Committee members to the Summit, representing the regions of North America (Canada), Latin America (Brazil and Chile), and Asia and the Pacific (New Zealand).
- Sponsored and organized with UNICEF on 9 March 1995 a workshop at the Summit's venue, the Bella Center, on rights of children with disabilities. Reported in a publication issued in cooperation with UNICEF in English, French, and Spanish.
- Summit preparation and follow-up description has included significant RI publications summarizing the organization's actions and United Nations outcomes, reported in *Secretariat Headlines* and the *Review*.
- Follow-up policy analysis published and distributed April 1995.

Fourth World Conference on Women

- Development of disability and women's fact sheet for use by RI delegates to the NGO segment of the Fourth World Conference on Women, August–September 1995.
- Developed and staffed a delegation composed of women with disabilities from China, Hong Kong and the United States of America.
- Reported on outcomes of the Beijing Platform for Action at the RI Tenth Asia and Pacific Conference, Jakarta 12–16 September 1995; reported in the *Review*.
- Follow-up to the Conference by RI has included sponsorship and organizing of an international leadership forum for women with disabilities, 15–20 June 1997, at Washington, D.C., in which there were 614 participants from 82 countries and territories. RI, as a sponsor and organizer, joined with the United Nations Secretariat, the ILO, and 20 United States government programmes and 25 corporate and non-profit organizations. Reported in the *Review*.
- Internal RI follow-up to the Conference has included the formation by the RI World Assembly, meeting as part of the Seoul International Conference on Disability in September 1997, of a task force on women and girls, co-chaired by members of the RI Executive Committee from Latin America (Brazil) and Asia and the Pacific (Australia). This task force's function is as an organizing focal point for further

follow-up activities to the Fourth World Conference that may be sponsored by the United Nations itself. Reported in *Secretariat Headlines*.

- ESCAP statement, 29 September 1997, Seoul, Republic of Korea, presented at a Pacific meeting of senior officials to mark the mid-point of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons. Statement presented to launch the RI task force and to insert language into ESCAP's official meeting report. Reported in *Secretariat Headlines*.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies

Commission on Social Development: monitoring project on the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

- RI secretariat provided staff and organizational support to RI representative to the panel of experts, 1994–1997.
- RI's Secretary-General, in observer status attended panel of expert meetings held in New York in June 1995 and February 1996, and at Geneva in May 1997 in order to provide the links between RI's ongoing publications and conference programmes and the work of the Special Rapporteur. Accordingly, RI programme organizers provided visibility and support to the Special Rapporteur's work in the following programmes:

  Sixth RI European Conference, Budapest, September 1994; reported in the *Review*;

  Tenth RI Asia and Pacific Conference, Jakarta, September, 1995; reported in the *Review*;

  Eighteenth RI World Congress, Auckland, September 1996; reported in the *Review*. The Special Rapporteur's role was to stimulate country delegations to consider how they might press forward with implementation of the Rules within their countries. The organization also informally convened the panel of expert members in order to further the discussion of country-level implementation;

  Seoul International Conference on Disability, September 1997; workshop on Rules.

Participation in meetings of the Commission for Social Development

- Statement delivered by the RI Secretary-General on 4 February 1994.
- Thirty-fourth session, April 1995, to discuss the outcomes of the Summit. Reference made to RI official work at the Summit in United Nations documents prepared for the members. United Nations documents were distributed to RI worldwide membership. Provided support for the implementation of the Standard Rules, participating in work sessions with Commission members.
- Thirty-fifth session, statement delivered 25 February 1997, by RI President in order to place on the official record of the Commission the points made by the disability NGOs in our 21 February 1997 meeting with Secretary-General Kofi Annan; called for second Standard Rules monitoring project term.

RI/UNICEF joint collaboration programme

Collaboration during the period under review consisted of publications edited by a disabled woman for use as a resource to be of help to workers in the field and disabled people at the grass-roots level. Workshops were sponsored to improve the visibility of

disabled children at the Summit and to build exposure for the study on the impact of armed conflict on children.

One in Ten, volumes 14, 15, 16 and 17, were published and distributed in English, French and Spanish between 1994 and 1997. Two workshops were held on the rights of the disabled child (March 1995, Copenhagen) and the effects of armed conflict on children (September 1996, Auckland). We have also published an international catalogue of selected videos and films concerning children with disabilities. Attended the Third Regional Consultation on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children at Abidjan, 7–10 November 1995, sponsored by UNICEF, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Agency.

International Labour Office

RI co-sponsored an international leadership forum for women with disabilities, in cooperation with the ILO and the United Nations Secretariat.

World Bank

Designed and co-sponsored, with the World Bank providing financing, a unique workshop on the theme "Investing in children in especially difficult circumstances: using culture to promote health, social and economic development", at the Tenth RI Asia and Pacific Conference, Jakarta, September 1995. Reported in the *Review*.

4. Salvation Army

(Special consultative status granted 1947)

Introductory statement

The Salvation Army's main objectives are the advancement of the Christian religion, the advancement of education, the relief of poverty, and other charitable objects beneficial to society or the community of mankind as a whole. The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by love for God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in his name without discrimination.

Participation in United Nations meetings

The Salvation Army's International headquarters representative made United Nations contacts on 14 and 15 July 1997 at Geneva with the Commission on Human Rights concerning Russian legislation on religious freedom, on 17 October 1997 at Geneva with the Executive Committee of UNHCR; from 5 to 7 November 1997 in New York, with UNICEF, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, UNDP, the DPI/NGO weekly briefing; and an NGO meeting related to United Nations environmental concerns in the area of climate change; and on 8 November 1997 at Washington, D.C.

During 1994–1997, the representative to United Nations Headquarters in New York attended various committee meetings associated with drug and substance abuse, ageing, youth, UNICEF, human rights, family, religious non-governmental organizations, freedom of religion or belief, the United Nations Association of the United States of America, and regular briefings of the Department of Public Information. In 1994, elected to serve on the executive committee of religious NGOs as Treasurer, attended the final meetings of the committee on the family, was one of five NGOs asked to explore the possibility of a General

Assembly resolution for a ceasefire worldwide in 1995, culminating with the General Assembly declaring 24–31 October 1995 as a week of peace, and attended the annual three-day DPI/NGO conference. In 1995, attended various committee meetings dealing with input to the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations; worked with Richard Butler, United Nations Chair responsible for activities for the fiftieth anniversary; attended annual DPI/NGO conference; arranged meeting between Salvation Army and the Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In 1996, attended fiftieth anniversary of UNICEF and the annual DPI/NGO conference, arranged meetings of the Salvation Army with the President of the General Assembly, a human rights Officer and Seth Winnick of the United States Mission to the United Nations; served as moderator for the DPI/NGO conference on the theme "Strengthening the General Assembly from a spiritual and religious perspective". In 1997, attended the three-day annual meeting of UNICEF's Executive Board; attended dedication of renovated United Nations Meditation Room made possible by contributions to the Committee of Religious NGOs, of which the representative was treasurer; arranged meeting for Salvation Army with Secretary-General Kofi Annan on 29 October.

The representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva attended meetings as follows: attended CONGO meeting in 1994; attended International Abolitionist Federation meetings in 1994–1996; attended forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions of UNHCR in 1996 and 1997; attended NGO committee meetings on development in 1996; attended a seminar on immigration, racism and racial discrimination in 1997; organized a meeting with the Human Rights Committee on Russian religious freedom legislation in 1997; attended a conference of NGOs in consultative status with the Council in 1996 and 1997; attended CONGO meeting in 1997; attended committee meetings on partnership with NGOs at Geneva from 1994–1997.

The representative to the United Nations Office at Vienna attended meetings as follows: in July 1994, made comments on the programme of action for the prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, which was sent to the United Nations as an intervention report; in 1994, attended committee meetings on the International Year of the Family: in 1994, attended Crime and Criminal Justice Prevention meetings; in 1996, attended an international seminar on families and a full committee meeting on the family; in 1997, attended the session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; in 1994–1997, attended UNDCP/NGO meetings.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

The Salvation Army cooperated with the United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies as follows:

(a) Emergency and refugee services for Bosnia and Herzegovina projects and programmes;

(b) 1993–1997: the Salvation Army in Jamaica was involved with WFP, through which it received machines and food for three institutions: the William Chamberlain Men's Hostel, the Hanbury Childrens Home and the School for the Blind. In 1998, Salvation Army's divisional commander from the Bahamas was made honorary liaison officer for UNHCR;

(c) In Ghana, during the UNFPA second country programme of assistance, the Salvation Army through its extension training programme was involved in population and family life education teaching, Salvation Army personnel were involved in adult literacy, HIV/AIDS and family life education seminars during 1994–1996. In 1997, the Salvation Army was involved in commencement of the third country programme on reproductive

health. The Salvation Army participated in the UNFPA third country programme in 1998, undertaking to train local leaders on reproductive health, train 28 adult literacy instructors, with special emphasis on reproductive health, and introduce family planning to eight communities in the Upper Eastern region. Some 16,568,522 cedis were received from UNFPA for total Salvation Army programme budget of US$ 42,000. In 1994, UNICEF accepted a proposal to fund the Salvation Army Urban Aid Clinic for poor disadvantaged women and children in a predominantly Moslem slum area of Accra, providing maternity care and child welfare and safe motherhood and sick child initiatives, with an average number of deliveries per month of 200 (UNICEF provided funding for staff salaries and running costs). In 1995, UNICEF provided three Salvation Army clinics with essential drugs for revolving drug scheme. In 1995, UNICEF provided six bicycles for our clinics to be used for home-based care visits. In 1995–1997, in collaboration with UNHCR, UNFPA, WFP and WHO, the Salvation Army Medical/Social Services Secretary was asked to be a member of a committee to address the needs of several thousand Liberian refugees in Ghana. In partnership with UNICEF in 1996, the Salvation Army accepted a proposal to fund its outreach clinic at Kokomba Market for street girls and babies (UNICEF-funded salaries of three clinic staff, running costs, drugs and medical supplies and a clinic vehicle). In 1995, an in-country programme director requested the Salvation Army health projects coordinator to be a member of a task force. The Medical/Social Services Department hosted a West African zonal conference on HIV/AIDS in February 1998 (in-country directors for Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire acted as facilitators). In February 1998, the Medical/Social Service Secretary and Extension Training Officer attended a WHO workshop at Dakar;

(d) The Salvation Army in the Russian Federation/CIS countries:

(i) Georgia: In 1995, the Salvation Army revised its food distribution plans with WFP, concentrating its services in the capital city of Tbilisi and the districts of Rustavi, Gardabani and Marneuli. Coordinated with UNDP in the distribution of non-food relief and in planning for non-food development projects. Worked with UNICEF to plan services for street children at Tbilisi and coordinated with UNICEF in the delivery of school supplies to orphanages in western and central Georgia. Worked with the United Nations to serve 196,000 people per year during 1992–1997;

(ii) The Salvation Army in the Republic of Moldova worked with WFP in 1994 to distribute food to 250,000 people;

(iii) Ukraine coordinates with United Nations programmes through a large-scale Ukraine elders project, with funding from the United States of America;

(iv) From 1991, worked with the United Nations to set up a food distribution programme at St. Petersburg and Moscow. Also active in AIDS response in St. Petersburg and Rostov-on-Don. Coordination and consultation with UNAIDS programme ongoing;

(e) Emergency and refugee services for Rwanda projects and programmes.

5. Society of Comparative Legislation

(Special consultative status granted 1950)

The Society of Comparative Legislation, an association formed under the law of 1901, was founded in 1869. Its aims are to "study and compare the statutes and laws of different countries and search for practical means of improving the different branches of the law"

(article 1 of its statutes). Its members are judicial and administrative magistrates, academics, researchers, corporate lawyers and attorneys in France and abroad (50 countries, including a number of new countries on every continent). The society holds colloquiums in France and abroad on current issues. In recent years, in addition to the approximately 15 countries or groups of countries with which it organizes regular meetings, it has established ties with Viet Nam, Lebanon, India and Taiwan Province of China. It edits and publishes the *Revue internationale de droit comparé* (quarterly) and edits other books (one or two per year). The Society's resources come from membership dues, State subsidies and the sale of its publications. In addition, the Society is a member of a research team of the National Centre for Scientific Research (France). It has consultative status with the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

George A. Bermann, a professor at Columbia University, New York, is its representative to the United Nations in New York, and participates in those meetings to which he is invited.

The Society has links with ISPAC, and a representative was scheduled to participate in the meeting "Responding to the challenges of transnational crime" (Courmayeur, 24 and 25 September 1998).

Yet the Society has been unable to meet the requirements of the United Nations as well as it would have liked for several reasons: (a) very few United Nations documents inviting participation in meetings have been received at Society headquarters; (b) when they were, it was often too late to select a representative; (c) the association's financial means are modest and do not permit it to pay for long-distance travel for its representatives; (d) no survey or questionnaire concerning the Society's activities has been received recently, but it is ready to reply when the opportunity arises, as it has in the past; (e) all the United Nations documents received are indexed, filed and made available to readers (researchers, teachers, practitioners, students) at its extensive library in rue Saint-Guillaume.

The Society of Comparative Legislation, editor of the *Revue internationale de droit comparé*, publishes articles concerning fields of particular interest to the United Nations, for example: in 1994, "*Le statut juridique des refugiés*" and "*La liberté religieuse*"; in 1995, "*Libertés publiques et droits de l'homme en Finlande et en France*"; in 1996, "*Jérusalem: réflexions d'ordre juridique sur son passé, son present et son futur*"; in 1997, "*Les bases culturelles du juriste europeen*" and "*Conflits entre droits religieux et droit étatique chez les musulmans dans les pays musulmans et en Europe*".

Society activities

Works published since 1994: L'entreprise et le droit comparé, 1995; *Le droit comparé aujourd'hui et demain*, 1996; *Actualités de la propriété dans les pays d'Europe centrale et orientale et en Chine*, 1998; *Le droit nucléaire: du vingtième au vingt et unième siècle*, 1998; *La présomption d'innocence en droit comparé*, due to appear in the autumn of 1998.

Colloquiums organized since 1994: in 1994: Different cultures and comparative law (France-Japan, Tokyo-Kyushu, 23 May–3 June); Intellectual property, constitutional reforms (France-Russian Federation, Paris-Orleans 9–15 June); Racial discrimination (France-Romania, Bordeaux, 20–25 September); Role of doctrine and comparative law in the formation of jurisprudence (France-Greece, Thessalonika, 4–9 October); The human body (France-Czech Republic and Slovakia, Paris, 3–4 November); in 1995, Adjustment of Spanish and French civil, criminal and administrative procedure to the European Convention on Human Rights (Barcelona, 24 and 25 March); The emergence of a European common law (France-Israel, Jerusalem, 24–27 April); Constitutional law and private, public and

criminal law (France-Poland, Warsaw, 14–18 June); Business law (France-China, Paris, Nice, Strasbourg, 14–23 October); in 1996, The law of integration, bioethics and computer science (France-Latin America, Venezuela, 27 February–1 March); General principles of law (France-Israel, Paris, 6–9 May); Judicial responsibility: comparative aspects (France-Romania, Bucharest, 4–8 June); Environmental protection (France-Greece, Orleans, 9–12 October); Audio-visual communication (France-Germany, Poitiers, 28–31 October); The relationship between constitutional law and other fields (France-Hungary, Budapest, 12–15 December); in 1997, Major infrastructure projects (France-Viet Nam, Hanoi, 5–9 May); Social welfare (France-China, Beijing, 1–10 October); Contemporary problems in real estate (France-Japan, 27 October–2 November); Impact of transformation on administration (France-Nordic countries, 14–16 November).

Programme for 1998: Economic relations between France and Taiwan (France-Taiwan, Paris, 10–13 October); Freedoms in public, economic and civil law (France-India, New Delhi, 16–20 November).

As far as possible, the Society of Comparative Legislation always takes into consideration and attempts to participate in the main areas of activity of the United Nations. It remains fully prepared to cooperate more closely with the United Nations.